

National States Geographic Information Council

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April 10, 2012

Dr. Marcia McNutt, Director U.S. Geological Survey 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, MS 100 Reston, VA, 20192-0002

Re: Support for the National Enhanced Elevation Program

Dear Dr. McNutt:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and state members of the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), I would like to express our strong support for implementation of the recommended National Enhanced Elevation Program. As outlined during recent presentations by Larry Sugarbaker of USGS, the proposed Program will feature uniform national coverage of Quality Level 2 data acquired on an 8-year cycle, with Quality Level 5 data in Alaska. Of particular interest to the states is the inclusion of buy-up options that will allow the states and their partners to enhance the data to meet their own business requirements.

NSGIC urges you to also consider the following points in the design of this program.

- In order for the states to invest in this program as partners, they will need to budget their cost share well in advance of data acquisition. Some states have biennial budgets which makes this request even more important. Adherence to published acquisition schedules, or the ability to accept 'pre-production' partner funds will be essential elements of the Program, and will ensure that economies of scale are optimized.
- It will also be important to develop a governance structure for the Program that
 includes state representatives. The governance body should be able to adjudicate
 disputes that might arise due to scheduling conflicts and other operational elements of
 the Program.

Please contact me if you have any questions, or if you would like to discuss this matter further. I may be reached by E-Mail at detroyet@gis.sc.gov or by phone at (803) 734-3894.

Sincerely,

Dr. Timothy M. De Troye, GISP

President

National States Geographic Information Council

cc: NSGIC Board